

The SOUTHEAST NEWS

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

VOLUME 4 - NUMBER 9

JUNE, 1956



Ministers' Convocation and Training School at Southern Union College,
May 6 - 11

Quotes on Ministerial Ethics

(From discussions at the recent Convocation at Southern Union College)

by Archie B. Bedford, Leader

"You yourselves are our letters of recommendation, written on your hearts, to be known and read by all men."

2 Cor. 3:2-3

A minister's life is simultaneously private and public. He represents Christ and Christ's church in the community. How foolish for a minister to assume that he can conduct himself as he pleases!

Higher ethical standards are expected and demanded of the Christian minister than of any other profession and his conduct, good or bad, greatly affects his ministry.

People differ in their judgments of ministers, but all agree in the severity with which they condemn the minister for that which they easily condone in others, and in censuring him for having too little of the virtues and graces which are absent from their own lives. This may seem unjust to us; but, nevertheless, it is true, and we need ever seek to walk worthily of our calling and to earn and hold the respect of people.

Goodness is not a mantle which we can put on or take off at will. It is the result of unfaltering trust in God, of seeking to live in intimate contact with Him, and of the sustained desire to live in His love and to translate that love into daily living.

Some virtues are mandatory for ministers, so basic that they ought not to need any discussion. Inner integrity or fundamental honesty, rigorous self-discipline, humility and industry are indispensable.

Dr. Turnbull, in "A Minister's Obstacles", discusses the temptations that are peculiar to us in our specialized work as ministers and which tend to lead to unethical conduct. He lists these as professionalism, covetousness, jealousy, pride, laziness and the loss of vision.

In "Code of Ethics", put out by the Disciples of Christ, these guides for the personal conduct for a minister are given: "I will cultivate my devotional life . . . I will endeavor to keep physically and emotionally fit for my work . . . I will be fair to my family . . . I will live within my income and will not

carelessly leave unpaid debts behind me . . . I will strive to grow in my work through reading, study and attending conferences . . . I will be honest in my stewardship of money . . . I will seek to be Christlike in my personal attitudes and conduct toward all people regardless of race, class or creed.

Our Relationship to the Church

Unlike the Roman Catholic Church, the character of our Congregational Christian Churches is affected profoundly by the attitude and the activity of the minister, so we would explore the area of ethical relationship between the minister and the church.

Every Congregational Christian Church is an institution with a history. It represents an accumulated heritage of teaching and procedure which may not be set aside lightly. Our people cherish certain beliefs. They cherish certain practices.

So, to serve as a minister in our fellowship implies a thorough knowledge of our history and viewpoints and an intelligent sympathy with its general trend of thought and practice. We are free to dissent. We are free to work for changes, but ethics demand that we be loyal to our Fellowship and support its total work. It is unethical for us to set ourselves up as the judge and withhold support from the work of our Fellowship.

We must always remember that we are sojourners in the churches we now serve, other pastors have preceded us and others will come after us. This sets an ethical obligation upon us to hold in sincere respect the accepted teachings and practices of the church we serve, to evaluate and diligently conserve the priceless heritage of the church, and to study carefully and prayerfully what we find ere we suggest changes.

Changes need to come oftentimes, but we must not be too hasty in seeking them. We need to have the patience of God, make suggestions and let the leaven work.

One might raise the question whether short pastorates have ethical implications. I believe they do. Short pastorates are often due to the fact that the minister is too lazy to do the needed studying to bring fresh sermons and too lazy to do the parish work; but short pas-

torates are also due to unethical laymen who do not treat the minister with decency, to say nothing of appreciation and understanding.

(I am amazed at the number of churches here in the Southeast that call a minister for one year and then decide whether he is to be called for another year. This keeps the minister unsettled and it keeps the church unsettled. I would like to see our churches call a minister to be the minister until the time when either the minister or the people feel that a change is necessary, at which time a three month's notice is to be given.)

When leaving a pastorate it is up to us to try to strengthen the congregation regardless of the circumstances, to prepare them for a new pastor, and to give to the new pastor accurate pastoral records of church members and friends of the church and their correct addresses.

When a minister leaves a church he should leave it. I do not mean that he cannot see old friends, but I do mean that he ought not to criticize his successor or his program in any way and he should not return for funerals or weddings, for it is through these periods of sorrow and joy that a pastor finds his place in the hearts of his people and that the people learn to turn to him in all hours of need.

(I think it would be well for a minister to tell his people this when leaving. He might well say, "I appreciate very much your devotion to the pastor who will take my place, so I am not going to return for funerals and weddings. Call your pastor and let him be with you in these great hours.")

I take for granted that we recognize that we are to dedicate our time and energy to our ministry, that we are to seek to maintain Christian attitudes toward the members of our churches and people in the community, that we will have respect for every home we enter as ambassadors of God, and that we will ever seek to strengthen the church we serve and the total work of the Congregational Christian churches.

My Relationship to Fellow Ministers

The atmosphere of good fellowship is unexcelled when ministers get to-

Continued on Page 11

Southern Union College To Expand Plant

Feeling that the time had come for the Southern Union College to develop a more concrete program of community service and leadership, the Board of Trustees of the college voted April 12 to continue its location at Wadley and to begin immediately a program of building expansion.

A considerable amount of study had been given to a plan of relocation and the Board, last June, voted to accept an invitation from Alexander City to locate the institution there. Continued study, however, proved that such a move would be unwise — for the college and for Alexander City. Board Chairman, the Rev. Joe A. French of Lanett, announced the action of the Trustees.

The Board expressed its understanding of the Alexander City situation but decided that the strategic time for expansion of the college and facilities is now. The increasing enrollment will overtax the housing for the fall term unless new buildings are erected. The Board voted to authorize the immediate construction of a women's dormitory and a gymnasium. Some funds are on hand for this purpose and an additional fund-raising campaign will be launched.

Ministers Convocation And Training School

Another in the continuing series of Ministers' Convocations and Training Schools was held at Southern Union College May 7-11. Not all in attendance got into the picture on the cover, but enough did to reflect the good time that was shared by ministers from all over the Convention.

The classes were under the direction of Dr. Guy Colbert, Professors Robert Yoh and Carolyn Welch, and President Clyde Flannery. Two very helpful workshops centered attention on Ministerial Services and Ministerial Ethics. At the request of all who participated in the session, the Rev. Archie Bedford, leader of the workshop on Ministerial Ethics, has written an article found on page two of this issue and continued into the July issue.

During the lecture periods, the Rev.

Continued on Page 4

Church Builders Club

The newly elected president of the CBC, the Rev. Joe A. French of Lanett, Ala., is making one last call for payment of the first pledge. On June 15 the amount received will be deposited to the credit of the Douglas First Church, even though the goal of \$5,000 may not have been reached. On August 15 a second call will be issued for the Tifton First Church.

The Methodists have borrowed our idea, raised the pledge to \$10, and it is reported that they have already built 24 new churches! On May 19 a seven-column ad was published in the *Nashville Banner* by the Tennessee Conference Methodists telling about the club and appealing for 10,000 members in Tennessee.

So we know that the idea is good, and that it is workable and can be a great success.

Dr. Douglass On Radio

Through July, August and September Dr. Truman B. Douglass will be the featured speaker on the National Broadcasting Company Sunday program, *The Art of Living*. Dr. Douglass' subject will be "You and the Church".

The time of the broadcast will be 9:15 a. m., Eastern daylight saving time; in areas where daylight saving time is not used it is best to consult your local newspaper for accurate information on this program.

New Secretary Of Young People's Work Appointed

The new Secretary of Young People's Work in the Division of Christian Education, who began his work on May 1, is the Rev. Edward A. Powers. He was former chairman of Christian Education for Southwest Ohio Association.

Mr. Powers, a New Yorker, is a graduate of Wooster College and Yale University Divinity School. While a student he served the Dunbar United Church in Hamden, Conn.

Pleasant Hill Church, Ohio, called him as pastor in 1953 and he has been in this position until the present time. Mr. Powers is married and has two sons.

A good laugh is sunshine in a house.
—Thackery

Educational Secretary Of American Board

The new duties of the Rev. David M. Stowe, who has been appointed Educational Secretary of the American Board, will carry him into close contact with pastors, laymen and students of this country. As the educational representative of the Board, he will have a minimum of administrative and promotional responsibility in order that he may be free to study the work of the Board and to interpret the underlying problems, philosophy and developing forms of the world mission of the Church.

Dr. Stowe's education and background, as minister, missionary, lecturer, chaplain and teacher have prepared him for this greatly needed work.

General Council Delegates

Delegates to the General Council Meeting in Omaha, Nebraska, June 20-27 from the Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches have been certified as follows:

North Alabama Association, Mr. Pressley Ingram of Birmingham; East Alabama Association, the Reverends Charles W. Bell and A. R. Van Cleave from Wadley, and Lynwood Hubbard from Alexander City; South Alabama-Northwest Florida Association, the Rev. W. Raymond Berry of Andalusia; Central Alabama Association, the Rev. D. Herbert Long of Tallahassee.

Representing the Georgia-South Carolina Conference will be the Rev. M. B. Porter Jr. of Atlanta; Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Frank Gordon of Atlanta. Mr. Rufus G. Obrecht of Chattanooga will attend as delegate from the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.

Delegates-at-large from the Southeast Convention will be the Rev. Archie B. Bedford of Charleston, S. C., Dr. Thomas Anderson of Atlanta, and Superintendent Erston M. Butterfield.

Alternate delegates who will be attending are: Mrs. W. Raymond Berry, Mrs. M. B. Porter Jr., Mrs. Erston M. Butterfield and Mrs. R. G. Obrecht.

The Rev. Joe A. French of Lanett, Ala., will attend as representative of Southern Union College.

Reading maketh a full man, conference a ready man, and writing an exact man. — Bacon

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Advance With ADVANCE

"You will want to share with me, I'm sure, the sense of satisfaction that has come with the most recent report on *Advance's* subscription growth.

"The magazine, on Friday, April 13, reached a circulation of 40,689 paid subscribers. This, I am told, is slightly in excess of the subscription total of *The Christian Century*.

So great and relatively rapid a development in *Advance's* readership and scope would have been quite impossible without the unflagging support and steady reinforcement of our many friends and associates. This has been a typically Congregational Christian project: democratic and jointly shared in by laity and ministers.

We will move on now into further phases of magazine expansion, main stress presently to be upon creative churchmanship. I know beyond peradventure of a doubt that in this coming year we will find you on the firing line with us as we strive to make *Advance* a more effective servant of the church.

Faithfully yours,
Andrew Vance McCracken,
Editor

The church is made up of individuals. It can do nothing except as its members work, and work together.—Aughey

Convocation . . .

(Continued from page 3)

Fred Mehrtens of the E. and R. Church in Cullman, Ala., and the Rev. A. Goff Bedford of Tifton, reviewed the history, polity, faith and practice of the two denominations moving now toward union. Both the lectures and the discussions which followed were most helpful and gave evidence of the common spirit and practice which first started the move toward union back in the 1930's among lay people of both denominations.

It is with a real enthusiasm that our ministers are looking forward to a closer work and association with the ministers of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Now, don't let your minister miss the next Convocation and Training School. Plan now to send him. The place will again be on the campus of Southern Union College. The time will be from 4:00 p. m. CST on Monday, Nov. 26, to noon on Friday, Nov. 30. The guest leader will be Dr. Wesley A. Hotchkiss, Director of the Town and Country Dept. of the Board of Home Missions.

Courses of study to be offered in this fall session will be "Old Testament", to be taught by the Rev. Raymond Berry of Andalusia, Ala.; and a course on "sermon-making" — Speech, Homiletics, and English—to be taught by the Rev. Carolyn Welch. The same plan of correspondence work during the six months after the campus period will be followed.

— Erston M. Butterfield



The Rev. Fred J. Mehrtens, pastor of the Cullman, Ala., Evangelical And Reformed Church and guest lecturer at the Convocation, with the Rev. Carolyn Welch, librarian and Professor at Southern Union College.

Temptations Of Leaders

For every status one finds special temptations. As is true with all temptations, they are tailor-made. These special temptations, indeed, usually fit much better than a tailor can fit a suit of clothes. All who have had any experience as leaders, of course, have felt the pressure. There is the temptation to use an official position of leadership to advance personal interests. There is the temptation to engage in horse-trading, regardless of principle. The greatest temptation of leaders, however, is not to lead.

Needless to say we witness a widespread yielding to that temptation. One of the common policies of leadership in our day is to do nothing unless prodded. In other words, the leader plans to initiate no move, correct no error, propose no change except as he feels strong pressure from the group of which he is the leader. To dedicate oneself to such a policy is to plan deliberately to maintain the status quo in the illusory hope that thus the group will enjoy harmony.

The business of leaders is to lead. This involves the hazard of recommending changes, seldom a popular undertaking. We are suggesting, therefore, as we consider the selection for the continuance of leaders in our church groups and on the National scene, that we remind ourselves of the test of leadership: does the leader lead? Naturally, a group that is going nowhere does not have this problem since it needs no leader, having no destination.

We are proceeding on the assumption here in the Southeast Convention that we do have a destination. While recognizing our very considerable achievements of the past few years we also recognize the long distance between where we now are and where we could be, as a vital Church serving our Lord Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God. We are moreover, peculiarly a Church of leaders in the social, economic, and political affairs of our wider community. Our plea, therefore, is that we respect the obligations of leadership by evidencing initiative, and encourage the leadership situation by according it loyal support.

(From the North Parish News, Sanford, Maine — with no change to localize.)

The Superintendent's Page

"Great Words from the Charleston Meeting"

Our 4th Annual Meeting held in Charleston, S. C., April 23 - 25 in historic old Circular Church was an high and holy occasion. We would share its inspiration with all our readers, so my page this month will again be used to bring you an echo of the great words which together comprise the "message" from Charleston. Of course, only excerpts can be printed — the selection is mine and not that of the speakers. Full texts will be furnished for those who may request them by writing "Great Words", Southeast News, 673 Piedmont Ave. N. E., Atlanta 8, Georgia.

Erston M. Butterfield

Great Words from the Convention Address delivered by Dr. Albert Buckner Coe, Moderator of the General Council, and entitled "Your Church and You"

What does the church mean to you? There are different emphases among people — laymen and ministers. There is the first emphasis that some people make — that simple elemental emphasis — people get married, a child is born and baptized, many years pass and someone dies and the loved one is brought to the church for the memorial service. Every one of these experiences ought to be had in the church. To some people that is all the church means — marriage, baptism, funeral. If that is all, is there anyone who would deny that is enough reason for the church to exist?

To me it is only the beginning of the meaning of the church. The church is a storehouse of spiritual energy. The church gives us the Bible. Who would have preserved for us the Bible if it had not been the church? The unfolding word of God — it is the church that gives it; no one else, no other institution.

And there are the prayers that come from ages past. Everyone has one favorite prayer. Then there are the great hymns, the prayers, the poetry. The church is a storehouse of spiritual energy.

The church has a long arm, which reaches out across America and into the far regions of the world. We have been strengthening that arm out to India and Africa and other far places, and the church has a long arm of usefulness.

The church gives us God as a satisfying answer to our deepest cravings. There are times in our lives when we do not seem to need any outside power. Soon or late we see through the glass of life darkly and we go out into the darkness of the night for a light and

always there comes back the word: "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." We have those values of the church.

But having said all this I turn to the books of the library. I find a book entitled "Has the Church Failed?" suggesting by the title the possibility of failure by the church. Steps are suggested that the church needs to take for its salvation. I see another book entitled "Five Minutes Left to Live" by Toynbee.

"For thousands of years we have been trying to live apart as nations and we have tried to live apart as churches and religions. Now the atom bomb has come. You have 25 years to live. The churches must come together if you are to meet the dangers of the new day. I do not believe the people of the world will fail. They will come together as nations; they will come together as churches." The church must have its services, it must have the long arm of usefulness, it must serve as the storehouse of spiritual power. It must proclaim God, but it must meet this new day. It MUST do it. It ill behooves us to say that our arm is shortened; to say that God's arm is shortened.

Nehru is now head of the political life in India. He is an aristocrat, as we know aristocrats. He is a Hindoo in background. When my wife and I were in India in 1946 we had tea in his home with him and his daughter. He had been in prison a few years before that under the British government. While he was in prison without any books of reference at all he wrote letters to this daughter called today "The Mirrors of World History". I read that book made up from those letters and found one chapter on Jesus. Here was a man in prison

under the Christians who wrote a chapter on the Christian leader. "Christianity is the outgrowth of the teachings of Jesus and is the religion of the democratic peoples of the west, but it is strange to see the contrast between Jesus and the peoples of the west with the present-day worship of wealth and prestige. How amazingly dis-similar they are!"

You may say he is wrong. I do not say he is entirely wrong. What does the world think of our Christianity? I get so weary of the pronouncements that Christianity is the buttress of democracy. Christianity is God's way of life for us. It buttresses what is good in democracy. It denounces the evils of democracy.

There are many Christians in Japan today who will not become members of the Christian Church because the Christian Church does not represent to them the teachings of Jesus. This is true in India too. Practicing Christians in India think the Christian Church as it is does not represent Jesus Christ. What about your church in a world like this? What are we to do? We are going to do as we have always done and we are going to do it better. We are going to launch out into the deep — into the future. I only want to make two general suggestions:

First, if we are to face the world today in the Christian Church, if we are to have a church that meets the demands of the new day of service, we have got to be willing to put our hands into the danger spots of the world. What are you doing about Africa, about India, about China? I think of America

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UPLANDS PLANS RETIREMENT PROJECT

By HELEN E. GALBREATH

Some time in July earth will be broken on a sunny knoll at Uplands, in Pleasant Hill, Tenn., for one of the most modern Nursing Homes in the state. It will take a year to complete the beautiful fire-proof structure, but when opened in 1957 it will mark another dream fulfilled by Dr. May Wharton, the "Doctor Woman of the Cumberlandns."

She first came to Pleasant Hill in 1917 with her husband, who was principal of the Pleasant Hill Academy, then a mission school for mountain boys and girls. After her husband's death three years later, Dr. Wharton remained at Pleasant Hill to give a lifetime of service to the people of the Cumberland Plateau. It was through her efforts and the cooperation of the community and friends in many states that she first opened Uplands Cumberland General Hospital, then Van Dyck Hospital for tuberculous patients, and in 1950 the 50 bed modern hospital in Crossville.

Although she retired from medical practice several years ago, her vision of human needs has never dimmed. In line with the thinking of many church and civic groups, she began to realize that the increasing number of men and women over 65 presented a problem that must be solved. Many were still active and wanted to continue to maintain a home and to live lives of useful and interesting occupations. Others

wished to lay aside the responsibilities of a home and live in a place where they might enjoy good fellowship, lighter activities, and nursing care when needed.

So Dr. Wharton began to dream of a new service that Uplands might offer. She planned an up-to-date Nursing Home on the high ground that overlooks the lake. The rooms were to be light and airy, with shelves beneath the windows for the books and other treasures to which older folks cling. There was to be a recreational hall and stage for friendly gatherings and vesper services; a library of up-to-date books; a covered terrace overlooking the lake and the hills; space for gardens; medical and nursing facilities; a large central dining room. It would be near the Craft Shop and Community Church, and in the center of a friendly community. Yet it would be a place of quiet, with the clean, fresh air of the mountains, and the beauty of the changing seasons. For those who wanted an occasional trip to the city, there were buses or friends with cars going to Knoxville, Nashville, or Chattanooga, only a two hour's drive away. The climate was ideal with pleasant summers and moderate winters.

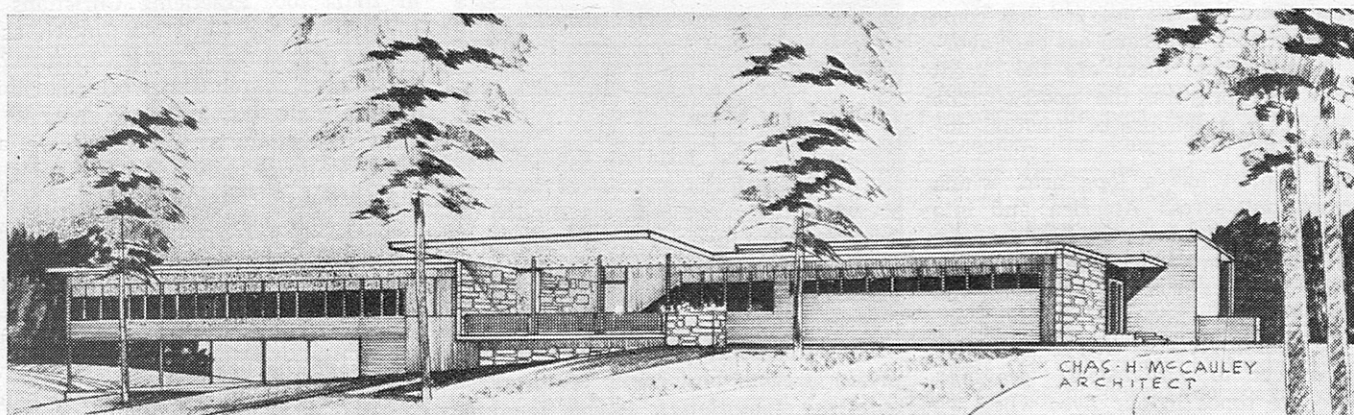
Uplands has 500 acres of rolling, wooded land. A part of this would be divided into lots and given free to those who wished to build retirement cottages close to the Nursing Home. Lots on the hospital grounds would be leased to the occupants for life, but would revert to the hospital at their death. But the acres owned by Uplands outside the

hospital grounds would be laid off in lots that would be deeded outright to friends who wanted to build their homes there. The one requirement would be that they must build within four years after getting the land and make their home there. They would then have the right to sell or dispose otherwise of the property after their death.

What a wonderful vision this was! The only drawback was the fact that there were no funds even to draw up the plans. But Dr. Wharton and the little band of friends who believed in her dream began to pray that a way would be found. Today through state and federal aid and a special grant from the Ford Foundation, over \$211,000 has been made available for the purpose, the plans drawn, and work has been started.

In addition to the Nursing Home, the first retirement cottage has been built—a two-bedroom, electrically heated dwelling near Dr. Wharton's home, and others are planned. Every mail brings letters of inquiry about either the Nursing Home or retirement cottages. Scarcely a week passes that friends do not drop in to look at lots, and many have been taken.

Pleasant Hill is going to be a busy place this summer, and Cumberland General Hospital is being used as a Guest House for those who wish to live here while they are building. Friends interested are asked to write in advance, for accommodations are limited. Letters should be addressed to Supt. J. F. Meisamer, Uplands Sanatorium, Pleasant Hill, Tenn.



Uplands Nursing Home — Architect's Sketch

C. C. Historical Society

The Congregational Christian Historical Society has been established for a two-fold purpose: to help us to preserve our heritage and to draw from it inspiration and instruction for present needs.

Peoples of other lands and in other times have sought and secured liberty, kept it for a short period and then lost it. But our American democracy has evidences of permanence. It has clearly defined principles of thought and action which have lifted our country to an acknowledged place in world leadership.

Our faults and weaknesses are evident to us as to all the world, but a moral idealism, a sense of rightness, a compassion for those who suffer, are our well known qualities. We have ethical standards, individual and corporate, by which we condemn dishonesty in high places and low. We recognize and have confidence in the essential qualities of a good man or woman.

In building our heritage, churches of many denominations have had a worthy part, and our own contribution has been noteworthy. From the churches have come ideals of liberty, and the sense of responsibility in religious, social and political life, the effort to understand the true nature and right method of education, and the obligations of national and world-wide brotherhood. Under the influence of the churches there have been developed free schools, home and mission, and many institutions for private and public service.

First in New England, then westward, then throughout the world, men and women have left enduring evidences of building the Better Way. One cannot understand our present society or government, our intense love of freedom, without knowing our early history.

Our Fathers learned, at great cost, that freedom once secured is not self-perpetuating. The itch for power is deeply rooted in human nature and mighty forces must be opposed. The ideals of religious and political liberty require a constant renewal.

In paying the high price for the right to be free men, the Fathers had always in mind "our children to come after us" and we of this generation stand as the heirs of those who generations ago, and others through the years, have contributed to our freedoms.

Rev. Morris In 'Who's Who'

The Rev. Scott Morris Jr., minister of the First Congregational Church of Andalusia, Ala., and also a teacher in the Church Street School of Andalusia, has been selected for the 1956 listing of "Who's Who in American Education". A biographical sketch of the life and accomplishments of Mr. Morris appears in the 1956 volume. "Who's Who" is published annually in Nashville, Tenn., and contains a listing of the most outstanding educators of the United States.

Mr. Morris is now completing his 10th year of instruction in the public schools. He taught in the Georgia schools for nine and one-half years. He has taught on the elementary, junior high, and high school level and his special fields an administrative capacity. Mr. Morris is especially trained to work on the high school level and his special fields of instruction are United States History, Sociology, English and Spanish. He has also conducted a piano studio for several years.

Born in Moultrie, Ga., June 26, 1924, he is the son of Joseph Scott Morris and Fannie Crawford. He studied at Norman College, Emory University, the University of Georgia, and took his A. B. degree at Oglethorpe University. He

We have our share of responsibility. The ideals and motivation of liberty of the individual need the life blood of each generation pumped into them. New days bring new perils. Exploiters of men continue to arise with new and improved methods to reduce man "to means and not as ends."

This Society seeks to help individuals and churches to pay due respect to the leaders of the past, to learn from them how men may cooperate to defend their liberties of thought and action and to draw from them inspiration that we in our day may not falter or fail in building the civilization of friendly workmen. There are great riches in our history and we should make certain that these riches be not dissipated or ignored.

Frederick L. Flagley, Secretary
Congregational Christian
Historical Society

Churches are urged to become supporting members of the Historical Society. Information may be obtained from 289 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.



REV. SCOTT MORRIS JR.

also holds an M. A. degree from the University of Georgia.

Mr. Morris served for several years as president of the Norman College Alumni Association. He was honored with a lifetime membership in the National Parent Teacher Association for outstanding cultural work with children in the Georgia schools. He has been a member of the National Honor Society, the Gold Club (college honor society), and is presently an active member of Phi Delta Kappa and Kappa Delta Pi, national honor societies for professional educators. He is a member of the Georgia Education Association and National Education Association.

A regular contributor to the *Manchester Mercury* for several years, Mr. Morris' weekly column of historical folklore and human interest stories is widely read throughout the section. His writings have appeared in numerous newspapers. He has also contributed to the *Southern Educator*. He was listed in the University of Georgia's annual *Bibliography of Georgia Authors* in 1956.

Besides his professional educational work in the public schools, he has taught drama, served as church organist and choir director. Before going to the parish in which he now serves, he was minister of the North Georgia Parish.

He is married to the former Miss Emily Pound, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Pound of Woodland, Ga.



AUDREY RUTH STOUGHTON



STERETTA GREEN

Student Summer Service

Each year the Board of Home Missions Town and Country Department cooperates with the Southeast Convention in the Student Summer Service program. This service provides young people, preferably of college and seminary level, to conduct vacation Bible schools in the churches desiring them, work with the young people of the church and community, lead recreation at the summer camps, and sometimes fill in for pulpit supply.

This year five young people will be working under the supervision of the Rev. Annie R. Campbell, Minister of Christian Education for the SEC, in the SSS program: Millard Fuller, Auburn; Audrey Ruth Stoughton, MacAlester College; Stevetta Green, Alabama State Teachers College; and Phoebe Pemberton and Jerry Beckham will work part-

time as assistants.

Millard Fuller is of course known well throughout the SEC for his work as president of the Pilgrim Fellowship. He will be a senior at Auburn next year and has had much experience in leadership, recreation, and teaching in the Lanett Sunday School.

Miss Stoughton is from Mountain Lake, Minn., and is 21 years old. She will be a senior at MacAlester College, St. Paul, Minn., next year, majoring in sociology. Her experience in camp counseling, local youth groups, recreation and Bible schools has prepared her well for her summer work here.

Miss Stevetta Green of Headland, Ala. is another local leader in Pilgrim Fellowship. She is 20 years old and will be a junior next year. She has assisted in teaching vacation Bible schools and has many years of teaching experience in her local church.

Miss Phoebe Pemberton and Miss Jerry Beckham are from East Tallassee — Phoebe graduated this year and Jerry will be a senior next year. Each has helped in teaching vacation Bible schools and has recreation and dramatic experience. They will work part-time, when needed as assistants. This will give them valuable training and also help them to decide if they wish to prepare for a career in the Christian education field.



PHOEBE
PEMBERTON



GERALDINE
BECKHAM

Disciples In Dungarees

For some years our Children's Day offerings have been used for Student Summer Service. This year our offerings will again make it possible to take the fellowship and program of the church to people who are without the services of the church during many months of the year. This year let us add another kind of service and Christian adventure to which our gifts will go, and in which some of our young people may participate. Helping to support these "disciples in dungarees," as Lois Penner called them, is another rewarding project for a church.

Every summer hundreds of our young people work in Student Summer Service. College and seminary students go to areas of our country where churches and people need their leadership. They conduct vacation church schools for children who have little other opportunity for Christian education. They help to reopen closed churches, sponsor youth activities for church and communities and often act as nurse-social worker-religious educator and preacher, all in one! From the Kentucky mountains to the Dakota plains, from city streets to Maine potato fields, these students bring their youth and radiant ministry to people hungry for it.

Every summer, too, hundreds of our young people pay for the privilege of hard physical labor in Work Camps. With pick and shovel, paint brush and hammer, machete and hoe, these delightful "dungaree dolls" and "cats in slacks" labor with love for some community which needs both their labor and their love. They are chosen carefully, for they will be part of an inclusive family unit of young people from many areas, races, and nations. They will cook for each other and work and play and worship together. They will be sent to urban tenement areas, to places of racial tension, to share-croppers' towns, to poverty-stricken farm areas, to disaster spots, to the College Cevenol in France, etc.

YOU MAY HELP by encouraging your church to take an offering for Student Summer Service on Children's Day. A special service is found on pages 48-50 in the Spring Quarter Pilgrim Series Program Manual. The Missions Council also has special offering envelopes which are available free.

—Project of the Month

WOMAN'S FELLOWSHIP

One of the six areas of work in the Women's Fellowship is Evangelism and Spiritual Life. Many of our Fellowships have an Evangelism and Spiritual Life committee. The Ohio Fellowship, in its booklet "Devotional Life," makes some very worthwhile suggestions which such a committee might well find helpful.

I. CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE OF WORSHIP. (1) Meet in the sanctuary or arrange a worship center. (2) Light candles at the beginning of the service and extinguish them at the end. (3) Provide soft music to help create a mood for Worship. (4) Use an invocation or Call to Worship.

II. KEEP IN MIND THE PARTS OF A WORSHIP SERVICE. (1) Recognition — is the acknowledgment of God's presence with us. (2) Meditation — is the message or main idea. (3) Dedication — is our outreach toward action.

III. CHOOSE A CENTRAL THEME FOR THE WORSHIP SERVICE AND CENTER HYMNS, PRAYERS, SCRIPTURE, AND MEDITATION AROUND THE THEME. (1) Correlate worship theme with program theme. (2) Use the topical index of hymnal in choosing hymns. (3) Use the concordance of the Bible for help in choosing Scripture.

IV. MAKE EFFECTIVE USE OF SILENCE, USE GUIDED SILENCE WITH GROUPS THAT ARE NOT AC-CUSTOMED TO SILENCE AS A PART OF WORSHIP. (1) At first, keep periods brief. (2) Guided silence can be introduced in the prayer time in a manner such as the following: "Let us remember in silence . . ." (3) Soft music is an aid to silent meditation. (4) The worship may be a period of meditation and prayer.

V. BUILD A STOREHOUSE OF DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL. (1) Keep a notebook of poems, prayers, hymns, etc. (2) Use resource books in church or public library. (3) Read *Advance*, *Guide Posts*, *Church Woman*, *Daily Devotions* for suggestions and inspiration.

VI. STRIVE FOR VARIETY IN WORSHIP IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF QUIET DIGNITY. (1) Use hymns in different ways — such as call to worship, prayer, or responsive reading. (2) Use vocal or instrumental music. (3) More than one voice helps give variety and meaning to the service.

VII. CONSIDER THE DEVOTIONS

NEED FOR PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP IN THE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

If the Congregational Christian Churches are to meet their normal needs for ministers — to replace those who die or retire and to fill vacant pulpits — 580 new ministers must be ordained next year. We can anticipate only 152, which is the number ordained in 1954.

This figure does not include the urgent demand for associate ministers, ministers of music, etc. The Congregational Christian Churches need three times the number of Directors of Christian Education now available. The American Board needs 100% increase in the number of people available for work in the international missions field. Additional ministers are needed for new churches now being organized.

In the past, the Congregational Christian Churches have looked to other denominations for much of their leadership. It has been conservatively estimated that at least half of all Congregational Christian ministers come from other denominational backgrounds. In fact, more than 10% of the Congregational Christian Churches in the Seminary's 17-state midwest area are served by ministers ordained in other denominations. But these denominations also

IN RELATION TO THE GROUP OF PEOPLE AND TYPE OF PROGRAM.

(1) The length of the service will vary from ten to twenty minutes. (2) The plan of worship will be determined by the program. Sometimes worship is best at the end. (3) It is important to have well-planned devotions for all meetings.

May the work of this committee in each fellowship serve to strengthen and enrich the devotional life of every woman.

Mrs. W. Raymond Berry, V. Pres.
Alabama Women's Fellowship

WOMAN'S GIFT: 1956

Alabama-NW Florida	\$334.23
Georgia-South Carolina	423.48
Kentucky-Tennessee	356.26
Total 1956	\$1,113.97

The total for 1955 was \$982.70, and this makes the biennium report total, to be given at the General Council, \$2,096.67.

face leadership shortages and are increasingly unable and unwilling to see leaders they have nurtured, recruited or trained leave their own communions.

From 1931 to 1954 the Congregational Christian Churches suffered a net loss of 898 churches. Some of these churches could have been saved for the Congregational Christian denomination and the communities they were serving had well-trained leadership been available to them. The membership of the remaining Congregational Churches has grown to the point where multiple ministries are required in many of the larger churches. (These are national figures. In the Southeast Convention we have lost membership too.)

What Can Be Done About It?

Help your church take action in the following areas:

Recruit young men and women for full-time Church Vocations. How many have gone into the ministry from your church?

Encourage young people who would like to commit themselves to Church Vocations.

Financial support from churches, church groups and individuals. Encourage your church to provide scholarship aid for individual students, aid to colleges and seminaries. (Southern Union College and the Congregational Christian Foundation at Vanderbilt in this area.)



The Woman's Fellowship of the Soddy Church recently sponsored the annual Silver Tea at the home of Mrs. Morris H. Jenkins. Proceeds from the tea were contributed to the building fund.

L. to R. — Mrs. T. Elizabeth Darby, Mrs. Emma Jenkins, Mrs. Walter Wood Jr. (President WF), Mrs. Lowell Smoot, Mrs. Morris H. Jenkins, and Mrs. Rachel Card.

Church News...

The two churches comprising the **Garden City-Mountain Grove Parish** have been busy since the Rev. Collie Seymour arrived on the field. Both churches have services each Sunday morning. Garden City has Sunday School at 9:30 with morning worship at 10:00 o'clock and then the pastor goes to Mt. Grove for morning worship at 11:15, following the Sunday School which begins at 10:15.

The Garden City Pilgrim Fellowship meets on Sunday evening, and Mt. Grove PF meets on Wednesday evening.

Garden City Church has a new sidewalk laid from the church to the street, which improves the appearance of the yard and enables one to get into the church without muddy shoes when it rains. The new rooms added to the parsonage have been completed with papering, painting (inside) and a new floor covering for the living room. A new coat of paint is planned for the outside of the parsonage, with the members wielding the brushes to apply it. Several "work days" have been held at Garden City to clean the grounds, remove the dead trees and cut the grass. Now that things are in order, the church is buying a new power mower to keep the grass cut and the grounds looking nice and neat. A Men's Bible Class has been organized with the pastor as the teacher, and also a Men's Fellowship which meets twice each month for a study of Bible history.

The Mt. Grove women reorganized their Missionary Society in April, after entertaining the North Alabama Rally on March 29. The new officers are: President, Mrs. George Fine; vice-president, Mrs. E. R. Delorme; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Allen Allred; Spiritual Life Chm., Mrs. J. D. Vansant; and Friendly Service Chm., Mrs. M. L. Terry Jr. This group is using for its program material the book "All of the Women of the Bible" and finding it interesting and rewarding. The women bought and installed venetian blinds for the church. The Men's Fellowship was organized on March 13, with the following officers: president, E. R. Delorme; vice-president, M. L. Terry Jr.; secretary-treasurer, J. C. Lee. This group sponsored a new roof for the church and a gas heating system, both of which have been

completed but not paid for yet.

Both churches are planning for Vacation Bible Schools and Revivals this summer.

—Collie Seymour, pastor

May 6 was Annual Homecoming Day at **Williams Chapel Church**, Waycross, Ga. There were about 160 present, in spite of the rain. The Rev. R. H. Booth, a former pastor, Mrs. Booth, and the Rev. A. W. Roland, who served as interim pastor, were present with a number of out of town friends. A great day of Christian fellowship was enjoyed.

The Williams Chapel Church was organized in January of 1933 with the Rev. Alan T. Jones as pastor, and when Dr. Milo J. Sweet was superintendent. The new church had about 24 members—no land, no church building and was a mission project. It was named in honor of Wm. P. Williams of Blackshear, Ga.

Former pastors are: The Reverends W. Carl Parker, N. A. Long, R. H. Booth, H. Headley, Ralph Worley, Frank Barner and Ashley Hobbs. The present pastor, with the church now on a full-time and self-supporting basis, is the Rev. Edward Knight.

April 22 was "church membership day" and 16 new members were received—six by letter and ten by confession. They were: Mr. and Mrs. Baruff and two daughters, Yynette and Bonita; Oscar and Freddie Sapp; Edward, Larry and Terry Knight; Billy Griffin, Joan Bell; Annie Ruth Sweat; Valeria, Clarise, Catherine and Anna Fay Dyal.

The Women's Fellowship Group One purchased two pulpit chairs in time for the Homecoming. Charlie Griffin and Bill Harper whitewashed the fence posts around the church yard and parsonage, and also the trees.

The Laymen's Fellowship enjoyed a barbecue chicken supper meeting on the evening of April 6.

Our building fund is still growing and we plan to build a new sanctuary in the future to enrich and enlarge our own lives and others by making a better building and greater progress for the Kingdom of God on earth. It is hoped to have a paved road from town out

Central Avenue to Williams Chapel soon.

—Mrs. C. H. Griffin, reporter

Members and friends of the **Vanceville Church** have been very busy this spring. Grass has been planted in the church yard and petunias and other blooming flowers gladden the eye around the educational building.

Mrs. Walt Hand, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Carpenter Jr., Revy Henry Abbott, Ben Cooper and W. H. Cooper attended the South Georgia Association meeting at Roberta in May and reported a very good meeting.

The PFers have been busy too. On May 14 they finished a potato patch for the church. Those working hard on this project were: Mrs. W. A. Hand, Joel Carpenter, Jack Abbott, Douglas Hand, Dot Allen, Charlotte Hand, Sandra Carpenter, Larry Underwood, Paul Underwood, and Johnnie Abbott. Mrs. W. D. Hand took a picture of the group, but it was late in the day and the print was too dark to make a good cut.

The ladies who work with the PFers served them sandwiches, cup - cakes and tea when they arrived at the church from school.

—Mrs. Rosie Hand, reporter

Former Resident

The Rev. E. M. Carter, of Youngs-ville, N. C., is one of the interested readers of **Southeast News**. He writes as follows:

"The **Southeast News** brings me news from a section of our work where I began, having been licensed at Phenix City, Ala., in October of 1898 and ordained at Beulah Church near Wadley, Ala., in October 1900.

"I was secretary of the Alabama Conference for 18 years and pastor of a number of the churches in Alabama and Georgia. That section is my home.

"I organized and built the church in Wadley and one at Cragford which was burned several years ago. Some of the preachers you mention I do not know now, but I love to know what they are doing. The work is dear to my heart.

"I am active still and have never moved since I came here. I have two churches I came to twenty-nine and a half years ago."

—E. M. Carter

Quotes . . .

(Continued from page 2)

gether, but when the session is over smaller groups gather. This is natural, for kindred souls to gather, but these little gatherings are too often fertile fields for caustic criticism of others. We can be the most appreciative of mortals and we can be most caustically critical, made the worse through our pious tones. We want to build a mutually helpful brotherhood, and to do so our ears should be deaf to unkind criticism of any minister and our lips sealed against any un-brotherly word.

Charles S. Medbury, a much beloved minister among the Disciples of Christ, wrote his creed, "No word shall ever pass my lips that hurts another in things of face, form, station or estate. My own weaknesses, my foibles, and my sins shall chasten speech and spirit and deny my pride. The vandal hands of lust and hate and greed shall not be permitted to despoil."

It is un-ethical for a minister to ever seek to undermine the work of another minister either in our own Fellowship or in any other Communion; rather it is for us to help our brother minister work out his problems if we can render help.

It is unethical for a minister to seek the pulpit from which the present minister has not resigned. It seems strange to have to say this but there are ministers who have moved too quickly when they have heard that a certain minister was ill or going to retire, and there have been some who have intimated that they would work for less than the present minister is receiving.

It ought not be necessary to say that ministers should never be seekers of tips, but apparently it is necessary to say that ministers ought not to accept any gratuities from brother ministers for services rendered.

The Disciples have well said a number of things, so I would quote their "Code of Ethics":

"I will refuse to enter into unfair competition with other ministers in order to secure a pulpit or place of honor.

"I will seek to serve my fellow ministers and their families in every way possible and in no instance will I accept fees for such services.

"I will refrain from speaking disparagingly about the work of either my

predecessor or my successor.

"I will refrain from frequent visits to a former field and if, in exceptional cases, I am called back for a funeral or a wedding, I will request that the resident minister be invited to participate in the service.

"I will never embarrass my successor by meddling in the affairs of the church I formerly served.

"I will be courteous to any predecessor of mine when he returns to the field, and will be thoughtful of any retired minister.

"I will, upon my retirement from the active ministry, give my pastor loyal support.

"I will not gossip about other ministers.

"I will hold in sincere respect any minister whose work is well done, regardless of the size or the nature of the field he serves.

"I will consider all ministers my co-laborers in the work of Christ and even though I may differ from them I shall respect their Christian earnestness and sincerity."

A word on "I will refuse to enter into unfair competition with other ministers in order to secure a pulpit." No minister should consent to be in a parade of competing ministers, for it lowers the dignity of the ministry and a parade of candidates confuses and divides the church. It would be better for both the minister, desiring a new field, and the church in need of a pastor, to work through our Convention and material will come to you soon on this procedure. If a minister feels the Convention is passing him by and that he must take the initiative, it is better that he do it through certain trusted friends rather than by direct application.

(Next month Part II will follow, on "When the Community Calls" and "Our Congregational Christian Fellowship".)

THOUGHTS

If we love one another, nothing, in truth, can harm us, whatever mischances may happen. — Longfellow

Candor is the brightest gem of criticism. — Disraeli

All things human change.—Tennyson

Revolutions are not made; they come. —Wendell Phillips

A man, like a watch, is to be valued for his manner of going.—William Penn

Order Church Activities Calendars Now!

The new Church Activities Calendar for 1956-57 is off the press. This is, in addition to a practical engagement calendar with all dates for the Christian year observances, a work book for ministers and church leaders. It contains a listing of publications and source materials for all divisions and departments of our denomination — films and filmstrips, pamphlets, study materials on Our Christian World Mission, Every Member Canvass materials and many other aids in promoting the program of the local church.

To be fully informed every minister, conference and association officer, and local church officer and leader should have a copy of this basic equipment. Order now, as the supply last year gave out and many were disappointed.

Great Words . . .

(Continued from page 5)

and we have a part in America. What are WE doing about it?

Stanley Jones' book "Christ on the India Road" tells the story of a missionary woman who asked a learned Hindoo man to become a Christian. He said, "You are talking about your Christ. I saw Christ the other day." She asked how he saw Christ. He replied, "We had a plague in our city. Thousands of people were dying. From one of those homes came one of your missionary women. She said to me 'Good morning, doctor, I cannot shake hands with you because my hands are plague-stained.' When I saw her I saw Christ."

It is awfully hard for us to enter into the sore spots of the world, but we have got to thrust our hands into the plague-stained areas of our world. It is imperative to begin now to think of our church as part of Christ's church in the world. "On this rock I will build my church", not church-es; we belong to the church of the world. Until we know that we are the church for the whole world we are not meeting the challenge of Toynbee and Nehru.

If we are going to face the world in faith, we must face it as belonging to the church of Jesus Christ. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son that we should not perish but have everlasting life."

Summer Camps and Conferences

Alabama Junior and Senior High Summer Conference

This year the Alabama Summer Conference for Junior and Senior High ages will be held at the same time—July 8 through 14 at Southern Union College.

Dr. A. R. Van Cleave is Registrar and Dean, and the Rev. Earl Hand is Assistant Dean. Registration begins at 3:30 p. m. on Sunday.

There is an unusually strong faculty for this year: Rev. Collie Seymour has charge of the chapel program, Mrs. Donald Ross is nurse, and those teaching courses are the Rev. Thomas Shreve, Rev. Herbert Long, Rev. John B. Crutcher, and Supt. Erston M. Butterfield.

Millard Fuller teaches a course, has charge of recreation and will also have an interest group in "Fun Singing."

Mrs. Donald Ross will have Handicrafts and the Rev. Annie R. Campbell will prove that "Manners Can Be Fun" in one of the interest groups.

* * *

Missionary Speaker

Miss Harriet M. Summerville, educator from Bailundo, Angola, Africa, will be the missionary speaker and teacher at the Alabama Young People's Conference.

Miss Summerville has been in charge of girls' work and a village extension program since 1953 with headquarters at Bailundo where there is a school. She also served during the past year in the important job of Mission secretary. She is a tri-lingual American teacher who speaks not only her mother tongue but Umbundu, the native tongue, and Portuguese, the official language of the area.

The Church of Christ in Angola is well founded and has tried and true native Christian leaders but it is tragically in need of more leaders and a means of training them, says Miss Summerville. "It is a praying, singing and progressing church," she declares.

Miss Summerville first went to Africa under the American Board of Foreign Missions in 1946 and was a teacher for a time at Means School in Dondi,

Portuguese West Africa. She also headed up the religious education department.

Born in Pennsylvania, Miss Summerville is a graduate of Schaufler College, now affiliated with Oberlin College, and studied a year at Kennedy School of Missions in Hartford, Conn. She was on the staff of the West Cincinnati Presbyterian Church just prior to going to Africa.

* * *

Work Camp July 22 - Aug. 4

The Rev. and Mrs. Raymond Berry will be in charge of the second Work Camp to be held in the Southeast Convention. Last year's one-week camp, sponsored by the Southeast Convention and Southern Union College, was so successful that a two-week period was suggested for this year, with the Congregational Christian Service Committee as the third sponsor.

Work projects this year will be the new dormitory and athletic field. Inside job will be the dining hall, where a kitchen wall will be torn out and the serving area converted to a cafeteria arrangement.

In addition to the work program, there will be tours to nearby industries, educational institutions, business establishments; and there will be discussions, interviews, movies, picnics and other recreation.

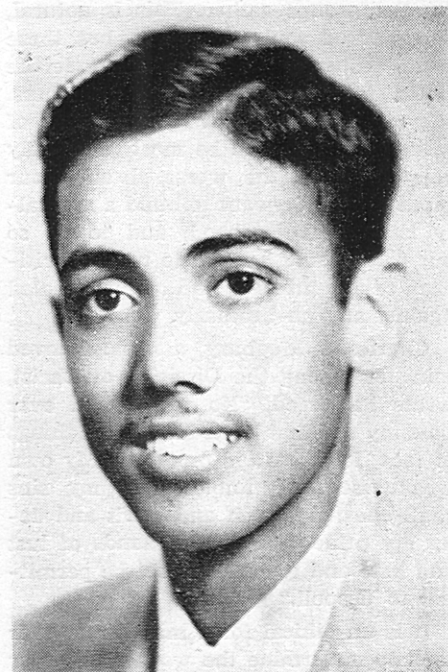
The cost for the two-week period is \$15 and applications must be in by July 5. Only 30 applications will be accepted — 20 from the Southeast Convention and 10 from outside the area. Information and blanks have been mailed to all ministers and church clerks. For additional information, write to Rev. Berry at Rt. 2, Andalusia, or to the Convention office.

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Georgia Family Camp

The Georgia Conference Family Camp will be held this year at Laura Walker State Park near Waycross, Ga. Note the change in location.

Registration will begin at 2:30 p. m. on Sunday, Aug. 19, and camp will end



Douglas Albert from Pakistan was the missionary speaker at the Kentucky-Tennessee Family Camp June 3-9. He is 17 years old and was a freshman at Elon College this past year. His father is director of youth activities for the West Pakistan Council of Churches.

with breakfast on Aug. 25.

The Rev. W. C. Carpenter is Dean, Rev. Edward Knight is Assistant Dean and Business Manager, Ben Cooper is Registrar. Dean of Men will be the Rev. Dixon Stimpson and Dean of Women will be Mrs. V. L. Bazemore.

Rev. Bill Traylor will have the Morning Watch and classes will be taught by Rev. Peter Doherty, Rev. John B. Crutcher, Rev. M. B. Porter, and the missionary speaker, Miss Jacklyn Black from Izmir, Turkey.

Other leaders will be Millard Fuller, Suzanne Warren, Rev. Warren Blankenhorn and Rev. Lynwood Hubbard.

There will be courses for adults and young people, interest groups in swimming, dramatics, photography and handicrafts, and possibly a trip to St. Simon's Island.

The cost is \$10 for adults and \$7.50 for those under 12. All children under 12 must be accompanied by a parent or some responsible adult.